

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6052

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETEL, ITU

SUBJECT: ITU: VISIT OF STAFF ASSOCIATION TO U.S.

REF: O'NEILL LETTER TO MILI, FEBRUARY 28

1. TELATT MET ON MARCH 17 WITH CCIR DIRECTOR KIRBY AND THREE MEMBERS OF ITU STAFF ASSOCIATION WHICH IS ORGANIZING CHARTER TRIP TO EASTERN U.S. OCTOBER 22-30, 1977. DEPT ALREADY HAS SPECIFIC PROPOSED SCHEDULE WHICH WAS ENCLOSED WITH MILI LETTER TO O'NEILL OF FEBRUARY 9.

2. THIS TRIP WILL BE FOURTH IN SERIES OF STAFF ASSOCIATION VISITS GOING BACK TO 1971 AND INCLUDING TRIPS TO BONN IN 1971, MADRID IN 1973 AND STOCKHOLM IN 1975. FOR U.S. VISIT, GROUP EXPECTED TO NUMBER FROM 130 TO 160 PEOPLE.

3. TELATT EXPLAINED STRUCTURE OF U.S. TELECONS COMMUNITY, INCLUDING ROLE OF STATE DEPARTMENT, OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND PRIVATE INDUSTRY.

4. STAFF GROUP NOTED THAT OBJECT OF TOUR WAS TO COMBINE INFORMATIVE VISITS TO U.S. TELECOMS INSTALLATIONS
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WITH TRIPS TO SIGHTS OF EAST COAST U.S. HENCE,
PROPOSED ITINERARY ENCLOSED WITH MILI LETTER.

5. MISSION BELIEVES THIS TRIP OFFERS UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPOSE ITU PERSONNEL TO U.S. TELECOMS FACILITIES, PRACTICES AND EQUIPMENT AND PROPOSES WE CAPITALIZE ON THIS OPPORTUNITY TO GREATEST EXTENT

FEASIBLE, (PARTICULARLY INASMUCH AS GROUP WILL INCLUDE NOT ONLY LOWER, BUT ALSO MIDDLE AND HIGHER LEVEL STAFF, INCLUDING AN EXPECTED HEAVY REPRESENTATION FROM TECHNICAL CORPORATION DIVISION, TCD); ONE OF THREE-PERSON STAFF ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE HANDLING TRIP IS TCD OFFICIAL.

6. MISSION REALIZES THAT USG FUNDS FOR SUCH PURPOSES, IF THEY EXIST AT ALL, ARE PROBABLY SEVERELY LIMITED. ACCORDINGLY, WE SUGGEST THAT MATTER OF WELCOMING AND HOSPITALITY BE PUT IN HANDS OF AN INDUSTRY COMMITTEE, WITH DEPT INVOLVEMENT CONFINED ONLY TO SETTING UP INITIAL APPOINTMENTS WITH GOVT AND INDUSTRY AND HAVING INDUSTRY COMMITTEE HANDLE ALL OTHER ARRANGEMENTS.

7. STAFF ASSOCIATION TRIP WAS DISCUSSED BRIEFLY BY KIRBY WITH ATT CHIEF ENGINEER ED WEPPLER DURING RECENT BROADCAST SATELLITE CONFERENCE AND WEPPLER WAS ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT VISIT AND POSITIVE ABOUT LIKELIHOOD OF WILLINGNESS OF ATT TO GIVE PARTICIPANTS TOURS OF INSTALLATIONS IN NEW YORK AREA AND TO ORGANIZE HOSPITALITY FOR THEM. THIS REACTION, MISSION BELIEVES, IS LIKELY TO BE SHARED BY OTHER MAJOR INDUSTRIES.

8. IN ORDER TO MOVE MATTERS AHEAD, MISSION SUGGESTS DEPARTMENT ADVISE TRADE PRESS OF FORTHCOMING VISIT, ANNOUNCE FORMATION OF INDUSTRY RECEPTION COMMITTEE (SEE IF WEPPLER MIGHT BE AMENABLE TO CHAIRING THIS GROUP), GIVE DATES AND DESIRED SCHEDULING AND SOLICIT UNCLASSIFIED

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ASSISTANCE. RE HOSPITALITY, GROUP WOULD WELCOME RECEPTION ON ARRIVAL IN NEW YORK, FINAL EVENING IN WILLAIBSBURG, AND JUST ABOUT ANYTHING ELSE IN BETWEEN.

9. STAFF ASSOCIATION IS WORKING THROUGH THOS. COOK TRAVEL AGENTS, WHICH WILL ARRANGE FLIGHTS. HOTELS, BUS TRANSPORTATION, ETC.

10. PLEASE ADVISE. SORENSON

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